

glad to see more of HENRY in his retirement, but we hope that we, too, will be able once in a while see him on the House floor renewing friendships and giving wise counsel to those of us still struggling with the complexities of legislation, and worrying, as he so often did, about what is best for all Americans.

HENRY, we wish you the very best in your self-deserved retirement in that exciting city of San Antonio—your town—and we have to say that it has been more than a privilege to have been your colleague during all these interesting and important years, when your judgment and dedication contributed so much to what we all have accomplished. God bless, HENRY GONZALEZ, and Godspeed.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank these gentlemen for taking the time to honor a giant of Texas politics, HENRY B. GONZALEZ.

To see the future, you must stand on the shoulders of giants. I, and many Texans elected after HENRY GONZALEZ was elected, have seen the future—and the future promises more Hispanics to Congress from Texas.

This giant has been an inspiration for young men and women who aspire to excellence in public office. Young HENRY GONZALEZ, who learned business at his father's side, has spent virtually his entire life in public service.

He is a maverick who, while recognizing the significance of being the first Hispanic elected to national office from Texas, respectfully declined to be labeled only as a Hispanic during his term of service. Realizing the importance of being part of the mainstream in the United States, he wanted only to be known as a legislator, and as a Texan.

We remember him as both those things tonight, and we thank him for the lifetime of service he gave to our country. You must admire a man who hauls off and punches a fellow in the face in a restaurant because he called him a communist.

HENRY B.'s tell-it-like-it-is-style has been a burr under the saddle of presidents; he has occasionally annoyed his colleagues with a never-give-up-attitude; and he is much loved, and has been much lived, throughout his career by his constituents, friends and those of us who have been privileged to serve as his colleagues in this august body.

I remember a friend telling me that she was a little girl whose mother worked in HENRY B.'s first campaign and she recalled the raw excitement about the campaign, and the elation of the victory. She was so proud when she and her mother were invited to Washington to see him sworn in. Well, she didn't make it and she said she's still a little mad at her mom for coming here without her.

She came up here to work in Washington in the 1980s and at dinner one night, I asked her who she would like to meet—the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, a movie star—Well, she wanted to meet HENRY GONZALEZ. She finally got to meet HENRY GONZALEZ, and she had tears in her eyes after they spoke.

There is not a way to qualify your legacy, mi amigo. You served your country well and showed all of those who followed you the path to success. Thank you.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a friend, a colleague, and a great American. After a highly distinguished career in public service, representing San Antonio, Texas, HENRY B. GONZALEZ will be retiring from Congress at the end of the year.

In 1961, HENRY GONZALEZ began his congressional career with a bang—becoming the first Mexican-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Texas. HENRY never allowed this institution to shape his thoughts and actions. He was always his own man fighting the good fight.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to the House in 1982, HENRY GONZALEZ had already made his mark on this august body. His leadership on a variety of national issues affecting his constituents, the Hispanic community in general, and the nation as a whole are legendary.

During his congressional tenure, HENRY served as chairman of the committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs from 1989 to 1994. In his capacity as chairman, HENRY successfully promoted legislation guaranteeing depositors a safe place to put their savings. He championed measures facilitating small business access to credit and strengthened the laws against money laundering and bank fraud.

Under his leadership, the Banking Committee held countless number of hearings on the Bush administration's pre-war Iraq policy. HENRY vigorously investigated the scandal, involving the Bank of Commerce and Credit International, and he took the lead in shedding light on the savings and loan debacle of the 1980's.

Throughout his distinguished public service, HENRY has championed the causes of urban and economic development, affordable housing and civil rights. I'm certain that HENRY must have broken the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for endurance on special orders. I vividly remember how he would tirelessly take to the floor night after night exposing government incompetence, waste and abuse.

I salute you HENRY. I salute your integrity and leadership. You will be sorely missed.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute today and participate in this special order for Representative HENRY B. GONZALEZ. From one retiring Member of Congress to another, I would like to wish him the best of luck in whatever lies ahead of him. May HENRY's life be in retirement as fruitful as it has been these last 37 years as a Member of Congress. HENRY B. GONZALEZ is an honorable man of impeccable character who has served as a role model for Latinos across the nation, including me. He served as Chairman of the Banking Committee and helped assure his constituency and Latinos across the nation were well served in his committee. Under his chairmanship, sound public policy, ranging from guaranteeing depositors a safe place to put their savings to reauthorizing federal housing laws were written and passed.

What can I say is the most remarkable thing about HENRY B? I can say that he had an unstoppable fighting spirit and a well developed sense of independence. HENRY B. will always stand for his causes, even if he stands alone. He will literally fight for what he thinks is right, and we all know that to be a fact. He is a great man to admire and emulate, and he will be missed.

HENRY B. GONZALEZ has been, to me and the other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, what we call in Spanish a "padrino," a godfather. In Mexican heritage a "padrino" is the person bestowed with the honor of looking after a child and be responsible for the good and moral upbringing of that

child. As the "padrino," HENRY B. is the one we came to for advice when we wanted to do something, and the one we came to for help when we did it wrong. As a Member of Congress, I am what I am because of HENRY B., all his advice, and my secret desire to emulate him. HENRY, you raised us well. HENRY, I tried my best to emulate you and I hope you're proud of me.

HENRY, I wish the best of luck to you, Bertha, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Goodby and godspeed.

HENRY B., we will miss you. We will miss your tenacity, your fighter spirit, your independence. But you have set a course for a lot of us who are now serving in Congress to try to follow in your footsteps.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) after 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Friday, October 9, and the balance of the week on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CLAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HARMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAFALCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKAGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SAXTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PITTS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANFORD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. ROUKEMA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KASICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TALENT, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. HYDE, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding